

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01568 042301Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

PRS-01 IGA-02 H-01 L-03 EB-08 MC-02 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /067 W

-----042308Z 058655 /70

O 042237Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2800

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 1568

ATTN: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CHARLES BRAY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON NICARAGUA

REF: BOVA/THEBERGE TELECON APRIL 4, 1977

1. SUMMARY: THERE IS NO DIRECT U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN GON COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS AGAINST FSLN TERRORIST REVOLUTIONARIES, PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN OF ANTI-SOMOZA IDEOLOGUES NOTWITHSTANDING. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL HEARING, WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THERE IS NO U.S. MILITARY PARTICIPATION OF ANY KIND, OR EVEN U.S. MILITARY OBSERVERS, IN NATIONAL GUARD COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS, OR ANY OTHER GON MILITARY COMBAT OPERATIONS. ANY ALLEGATION TO THE CONTRARY IS COMPLETELY FALSE.

B. U.S. MILITARY OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN PRESENT DURING THE CONDECA REGIONAL CENTRAL AMERICAN DEFENSE MANEUVERS WHICH HAVE BEEN CON-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01568 042301Z

DUCTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MOST RECENTLY IN NICARAGUA LAST NOVEMBER. THE CONDECA MANEUVERS WERE IN NO WAY RELATED TO NICARAGUAN COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS. IN FACT, NO LIVE AMMUNITION WAS USED.

∴ WHILE THERE IS NOTHING INHERENTLY WRONG IN U.S. COUNTER-INSURGENCY TRAINING, NO MILGP PERSONNEL ARE OR HAVE BEEN IN RECENT YEARS INVOLVED IN IN-COUNTRY TRAINING OF NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL

FOR COUNTER-INSURGENCY. NICARAGUAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE RECEIVED SUCH TRAINING AT PANAMA CANAL ZONE, AND CONUS TRAINING FACILITIES, ALONG WITH STUDENTS FROM MOST OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. (THERE IS AT PRESENT ONE NICARAGUAN GN STUDENT IN RANGER TRAINING IN THE U.S.) THE UNSOPHISTICATED NATURE OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED BY THE GON NORMALLY HAS NOT REQUIRED INSTRUCTION IN THEIR USE AND MAINTENANCE, EXCEPT OF THE MOST ELEMENTARY KIND. PLANNED GON PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR FY 1978 UNDER FMS FINANCING FOCUSES ON REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE AIRCRAFT AND WEAPONS, AND CASH PURCHASES OF SPARE PARTS AND SUPPORT ITEMS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN THE INVENTORY. RECENT MILITARY PURCHASES UNDER FMS PROGRAM HAS CONCENTRATED ON SMALL ARMS SUCH AS M-16'S, VEHICLES, LIGHT AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS.

D. ERNESTO CARDENAL, NICARAGUAN PRIEST, HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A VICIOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST U.S. MILITARY RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA DURING TRIP LAST MONTH TO THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO AND VENEZUELA. CARDENAL IS A PRO-CASTRO EXTREMIST EDEOLOGUE WITH HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT AS POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND PROPAGANDIST AGAINST SOMOZA REGIME AND US-NICARAGUAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, CARDENAL HAS BEEN REGULARLY MAKING SUCH PATENTLY FALSE CHARGES AS U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT INVOLVEMENT IN BOMBING RADIS AGAINST FSLN TERRORISTS FROM PANAMA CANAL ZONE BASES, U.S. COMBAT INVOLVEMENT IN GON COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS, U.S. PROGRAMS OF STERILIZATION OF NICARAGUAN WOMEN, AND OTHER SUCH PROPAGANDA. DURING CARDENAL'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES LAST MONTH, WOLA ORGANIZED A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON AT WHICH HE AIRED THESE FALSE CHARGES AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. FERNANDO CARDENAL, ANOTHER NICARAGUAN PRIEST AND BROTHER OF ERNESTO, MADE NUMEROUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANAGU 01568 042301Z

FALSE ACCUSATIONS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS REGARDING U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN NICARAGUA BEFORE FRASER COMMITTEE LAST UNE. THEIR VIEWS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO REPS KOCH, FRASER AND OTHERS AND MAY FORM THE BASIS FOR PART OF THE CONCERN OF THESE CONGRESSMEN. THEBERGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAGU01568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770117-0345
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770491/aaaadbrm.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a63801ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2909089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON NICARAGUA
TAGS: SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a63801ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009